and financial assistance for various developmental activities. The State Government has also established a Tea Development Board for reviving the old tea gardens in the State.

(c) The total area of the existing tea gardens in the State is 1068 hectares.

New Foreign Trade Policy

179. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to announce a new Foreign Trade Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when the new policy is likely to be put in place; and

(c) whether, while formulating the policy, interests of the India's trading community would be kept in view so that they may not be deprived of a level playing field *vis-a-vis* the international business community operating in the global market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (c)Anew Foreign Trade Policy is under formulation and would be announced in August, 2004. The New Foreign Trade Policy is aimed at boosting exports, including agricultural exports and creating additional employment.

Quantitative restrictions on iron ore, pig iron and sponge iron

180. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry is seriously considering of putting quantitative restrictions on iron ore, pig iron and sponge iron in view of the persistent shortage of supply in the domestic market;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are also considering a raw material policy;

(d) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(e) the benefits to the domestic traders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) There is no proposal

of putting any further quantitative restrictions on the export of iron ore, pig iron and sponge iron, besides the ones already existing. At present, export of iron ore with 64% Fe and above is through MMTC Ltd., the designated State Trading Enterprise of the Government, while the export of iron ore below 64% Fe is under OGL. Government policy also allows private exporters who own iron ore mines to export high-grade iron ore directly. Till recently the export of high-grade iron ore (fines as well as lumpy ore) from Bellary-Hospet Sector was also under quantitative cap (4.2 million tonnes per annum) which has since been removed. However, quantitative cap in the Bailadila Sector of Chhattisgarh region (6.8 million tonnes per annum) continues, as the ore of Bailadila sector being of superior quality is required by the domestic industry.

(c) to (e) Ministry of Steel is contemplating a National Steel Policy, which would contain a policy on raw materials pertaining to steel, with emphasis to meet requirements of domestic consumers.

Archaeological and heritage services of India

181. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up an archaeological and heritage services of India to attract professionals to the Archaeological Survey of India on the basis of the All India Civil Services;

(b) whether his Ministry has elicited any comments from the UPSC and the Department of Personnel in this regard; and

(c) if so, the comments received in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Yes, the proposal is under consideration of the Ministry.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The comments received from UPSC and DOPT are given in the Statement-I and Statement-ll.

Statement-I

UPSC Comments

1. Induction in the CAS through the Civil Services Examination may not be able to meet the technical and specialised requirements of the various posts in the proposed CAS.